

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A painted metal sheet having a surface chemically treated with a chemical agent containing at least one fluoroacid coated with a paint layer, which comprises a base resin and dispersed therein particles of a chromium-free corrosion inhibitor prepared from porous silica particles to which Ca ion is bonded by ion-exchange, a polyphosphate and optionally other pigment(s), formed on a surface of a base metal sheet, wherein said composition is positioned on said treated surface of said metal sheet without the interposition of a chromium containing layer.

Claim 9 (original): The painted metal sheet defined in Claim 8, wherein the base metal sheet is a steel sheet coated with a Zn, Zn-Al or Al plating layer.

Claims 10-11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (currently amended): The painted metal sheet defined in Claim ~~11~~8, wherein the fluoroacids are one or more of H_2TiF_6 , H_2ZrF_6 , H_2HfF_6 , H_2SiF_6 , H_2SnF_6 and HBF_4 .

Claim 13 (currently amended): The painted metal sheet defined in Claim ~~11~~8, wherein fluorides are deposited on the surface of the steel sheet at a ratio of $0.5\text{-}500\text{mg/m}^2$ calculated as deposited fluorine and/or at a ratio of $0.1\text{-}500\text{mg/m}^2$ calculated as deposited metals in total.

Claim 14 (original): The painted metal sheet defined in Claim 8, wherein the paint layer is an undercoat on which a topcoat is formed.

Claim 15 (original): The painted metal sheet defined in Claim 8, wherein the base resin is polyester, macromolecular polyester, epoxy, epoxy-denatured polyester, epoxy-denatured macromolecular polyester or polyether sulfonate.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The painted metal sheet defined in Claim 8, wherein the corrosion inhibitor is porous silica particles, to which Ca ion is bonded at a ratio of 3-40 weight %.

Claim 17 (original): The painted metal sheet defined in Claim 8, which contains the corrosion inhibitor at a ratio of 2-50 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of resinous components.

Claim 18 (original): The painted metal sheet defined in Claim 8, wherein the polyphosphate is one or more of aluminum pyrophosphate, aluminum metaphosphate or aluminum dihydrogentriphosphate.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The painted metal sheet defined in Claim 8, which contains the corrosion inhibitor and the polyphosphate at an A/B weight ratio of 60/40 to 5/95 and at an A+B ratio of 5-150 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of resinous components, wherein A and B represents the corrosion inhibitor and the polyphosphate, respectively.

Claim 20 (original): The painted metal sheet defined in Claim 8, wherein the other pigment(s) are one or more of titanium oxide, calcium carbonate and silica.